

Message Text

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ACTION NASA-02

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AMES RESH ATTN SEM/MR HAUGHNEY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: TSPA, GT
SUBJ: CLEARANCE REQUEST FOR NASA AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 72008 (B) GUATEMALA 1920

1. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED TWO ADDITIONAL REQUESTS FOR NASA CV-990 SERVICES. ONE IS FROM THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR AGRARIAN TRANSFORMATION. ITS FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT REQUESTS PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE "FRANJA TRANSVERSAL" AREA. THIS AREA CONSISTS OF THE ZONE BORDERED TO THE NORTH BY THE COORDINATES 16 DEGREES 04' 22.92 AND TO THE SOUTH BY 15 DEGREES 35' LATITUDE, BEGINNING WITH 88 DEGREES 45' ON THE EASTERN LIMIT AND PROCEEDING TO 91 DEGREES 10' LONGITUDE AT THE WESTERN LIMIT. THE REQUEST STATES:

2. "THE "FRANJA TRANSVERSAL" IS PROPOSED AS THE LOCATION FOR VARIOUS COLONIZATION PROGRAMS, AND THE INSTITUTE IS IN CHARGE OF PREPARING NATURAL RESOURCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC STUDIES OF THE AREA. SPECIFICALLY, WE ARE INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY WHICH COULD PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

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1. TOPOGRAPHY OF THE AREA, INCLUDING LOCATION OF SWAMPS, ZONES SUBJECT TO FLOODING, AND KARST OUTCROPPINGS.
2. TYPES OF EXISTING VEGETATIVE COVER.
3. LOCATION OF EXISTING SETTLEMENTS AND EXTENT OF AREA PRESENTLY UNDER CULTIVATION.
4. EXISTING ROADS AND TRAILS.

3. THE INSTITUTE IS INTERESTED IN BLACK AND WHITE PANACHROMATIC PHOTOS OF A MINIMUM SCALE OF 1:30,000. A SCALE OF 1:20,000 WOULD BE BEST FOR OUR PURPOSES. IT IS BELIEVED THAT INFRA-RED PHOTOGRAPHY WOULD ALSO BE EXTREMELY VALUABLE IF IT COULD BE TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY AND ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE WITH NASA FOR INFRA-RED PROCESSING.

4. ASSUMING THE COSTS RELATED TO THESE SERVICES ARE AS ADVANTAGEOUS AS HAVE BEEN SUGGESTED, THE INSTITUTE IS ANXIOUS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY THE NASA AIRCRAFT AND EQUIPMENT. SINCE THE AREA TO BE PHOTOGRAPHED IS RELATED TO BILATERAL PROJECT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA AND THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT (AID), THE GOVERNMENT WILL AUTHORIZE THE USE OF AID LOAN FUNDS TO COVER NASA'S COSTS."

5. AN ADDITIONAL REQUEST (SEE REF B) HAS BEEN RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL FORESTRY INSTITUTE. FOR PURPOSES OF FORESTRY INVENTORY, THE INSTITUTE WOULD LIKE PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE SHOWING AN AREA OF 10,000 SQUARE KILOMETERS IN AN AREA KNOWN AS COBAN-POLOCHIC. THE OBJECTIVE IS TO OBTAIN PHOTOS AND OTHER TECHNICAL DATA FOR DETERMINING THE TYPE OF FORESTS, THEIR DENSITY, ALTITUDE, AND COMPOSITION FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTRY INVENTORY. MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE INSTITUTO GEOGRAFICO NACIONAL DE GUATEMALA.
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6. THE PROJECT CITED IN REF B AND THE TWO MENTIONED ABOVE ARE POSSIBLE PROGRAMS TO DEVELOP FULL UTILIZATION OF THE NASA CV-990 WHILE IN GUATEMALA. FURTHER DETAILS MUST, OF COURSE, BE DISCUSSED WITH THE AIRCRAFT COMMANDER AS TO FEASIBILITY AND BE COORDINATED WITH THE INSTITUTO GEOGRAFICO. IN OTHER WORDS, THEY ARE POTENTIAL PROJECTS. SEVERAL OTHERS MAY BE SUGGESTED THROUGH THE INSTITUTO GEOGRAFICO.
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